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Approved For Release 2003/10/01 : CIA-RDP80-00809A000500330047-1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY Costa Rica

SUBJECT Port Facilities, Puntarenas

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CD NO.	
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DATE DISTR. 15 Dec 53

NO. OF PAGES 1

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

The Office of Naval Intelligence (12ND, No 128-53) furnished the following information to CIA for IAC dissemination in accordance with par 3c of NSCID#7.7

- Entrance. Vessels may enter the port at any hour. A pilot is mandatory. The port is congested with shipping from about the middle of January to about the middle of July as much cargo is moved then to take advantage of the dry season. A 30 foot draft is the maximum permitted for entering the port, but a 26 foot draft is the recommended maximum which is safe for mean low water.
- Stevedores. Six gangs of stevedores are available, although a seventh gang can be arranged for by advance notice.
- Piers. There are two piers. The berths are 488' outside and 393' inside, and the depth of water at the berths is 26' at mean low water. The berths were in process of being repaired at the time of the report, and the informant believes both should be in good condition now.
- Cargo Facilities. The maximum lift is dependent on the lift capacity of the ship's gear. The largest cubic unit capable of being handled is 30' long, 5' wide and 10' high. There were some 190 freight cars available but more were expected in December 1952. There are no lighters or tugs.
- Warehouses. The cement warehouses have a capacity for 600 thousand bags (nitrate, fertilizer, coal etc). The Aduana warehouse usually is filled with coffee in the months from 15 January to 15 July. It is 100 x 100 x 5 meters.
- Transportation. The highway to San José is considered fair in the dry season when it is rough but safe. During the rainy season it is not usable. The train schedule in November 1952 was as follows:

	Leave	Arrive	Leave	Arrive
San José	0815	1220	1430	1830
Puntarenas	0815	1220	1430	1830

- Miscellaneous. Medium quantities of provisions are available as in good fresh water. Minor motor repairs are available and fuel and diesel oils are available.

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